



CITY OF FALLS CHURCH

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Falls Church City Municipal Center Parking Lot Improvements Changes to Traffic Patterns & Parking Beginning Monday, Aug. 15

FALLS CHURCH, VA – As part of a strategic plan to renovate the municipal center parking lot, the City of Falls Church Department of Environmental Services has scheduled construction to restore pavement, improve traffic circulation, enhance pedestrian safety, increase lighting, augment ADA-compliance, and integrate low-impact development techniques for storm water management. The final phase of this project begins Monday, Aug. 15, 2005 and is scheduled for completion by Thursday, Sept. 15, weather permitting.

During the construction, the Park Avenue and south Little Falls Street entrances will be closed to traffic. Entry and exit from City Hall will be via the driveway in front of the Community Center (north Little Falls Street entrance), which will remain open throughout the project's duration. Signs will be posted to direct traffic accordingly. Beginning in mid September, municipal center customers will experience new entering and exiting locations and new one-way traffic patterns throughout most of the parking lot.

The improvements will largely affect the employee and non-Community Center visitor parking areas; parking spaces and handicap spaces next to the Community Center and in the Cherry Hill lot will not be affected. Additional parking may be found on the adjoining streets of Park Avenue and Great Falls.

The final phase of construction includes:

- Repaving of the south, east, and north City Hall parking lots;
- Reduction of a 30-foot, two-way driveway to a 20-foot, one-way driveway; The reduced area of asphalt will be added to an adjacent parking lot planter;
- Construction of a new exit ramp linking the Cherry Hill and City Hall parking lots;
- Installation of new traffic control and ADA accessibility related signage;
- Installation of new outdoor lighting; and
- Line striping.

Strategically restoring the municipal center parking lot by incorporating low impact development measures will not only improve traffic flow and enhance pedestrian and driver safety, but will also facilitate the natural dispersal and infiltration of storm water runoff into the ground. The initial phase, completed in July, included construction of a 600 square-foot rain garden and a 1350 square-foot area of grass-plugged porous pavers for this purpose. The City was able to secure a \$15,480 grant from the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation to help fund the low impact development component of this \$245,000 project.

Copies of plans are available in the Mary Riley Styles Library. For more information, please call the Department of Environmental Services at 703-248-5080.

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